

FACT SHEET

As required by LAC 33:IX.3111 for major LPDES dischargers, for draft Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. LAG750000 to discharge to waters of the State of Louisiana as per LAC 33:IX.Chapter 31.

GENERAL PERMIT NO. LAG750000

AI 90698

PER20080001

GENERAL PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES OF EXTERIOR VEHICLE WASH WASTEWATER

FACT SHEET FOR THE DRAFT LOUISIANA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (LPDES) PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES OF EXTERIOR
VEHICLE WASH WASTEWATER

Permit No. LAG750000

Issuing Office: State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
Water Permits Division

Prepared By: Linda Gauthier
(LAC 33:IX.3111.B.7) Municipal and General Permits Section
Water Permits Division
(225) 219-0801

Permit Action: Reissuance of a General Permit for Discharges of Exterior
Vehicle Wash Wastewater

Date Prepared November 1, 2008

I. ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL PERMIT (LAC 33:IX:2515)

The Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division, through its permitting system authorized under the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq.), is responsible for ensuring that certain sources of wastewaters and storm water are identified, receive adequate treatment, and are disposed of in accordance with applicable state regulations. In accordance with the "Memorandum of Agreement" between the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and LAC 33:IX.2301, et seq., the Department has the authority to administer the LPDES General Permits Program.

Under the authority of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 40 CFR 123.24, and LAC 33:IX.2515.A.2.b, a general permit can be used to cover a category of point sources other than storm water point sources, or a category of treatment works treating domestic sewage, if the sources or treatment works treating domestic sewage all:

1. involve the same or substantially similar types of operations;
2. discharge the same types of wastes or engage in the same types of sludge use or disposal practices;
3. require the same effluent limitation or operating conditions, or standards for sewage sludge use or disposal;
4. require the same or similar monitoring; and
5. in the opinion of the state administrative authority, are more appropriately controlled under a general permit than under individual permits.

The general permit will authorize only discharges identified in Section B of the permit which typically are short-term discharges of low volume flows. This permit **shall not** apply to:

1. sites producing and/or receiving wastewater from sources other than those described below in Section II COVERED ACTIVITY;
2. facilities which discharge substances that are not addressed by or would not be adequately regulated by the effluent limitations in this permit;
3. discharges that are mixed with other, non-covered discharge types unless those other discharges are in compliance with another LPDES permit;
4. washing of vehicles, boats, aircraft (planes and helicopters), or equipment determined by this Office to present an environmental risk or potential risk of discharging pollutants other than is intended to be regulated by this permit;
5. discharges which involve decontamination of equipment involved in remediation type activities;
6. discharges which have limits assigned to them in the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan or an approved Waste Load Allocation which are different from the limits contained in this permit;
7. discharges which involve oil field service vehicles, vehicles with tanks or cargo compartments for the hauling or dispensing of pesticides, hazardous waste, or any material deemed by this Office to be a threat to the environment;
8. washing the inside of the storage compartment of garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste;

9. washing garbage trucks that haul industrial waste materials;
10. washing garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste if they are washed at any location other than a maintenance facility or a solid waste transfer station;
11. washing the outside of the storage compartment of garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste if there is a visible accumulation of free liquids or waste materials on the outside of the compartment;
12. internal tank truck washing or the external washing of tank trucks that have a visible accumulation of product on the outside of the tank;
13. steam cleaning or pressure washing engines, and/or industrial equipment with non-biodegradable soaps and/or detergents or with chemicals containing any of the 126 priority pollutants;
14. discharges which are likely to have unauthorized adverse effects upon threatened or endangered species, or on the critical habitat for these species as determined in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
15. discharges that will adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, unless they are in compliance with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and any necessary activities to avoid or minimize impacts have been coordinated with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (*for questions, the operator should contact the Section 106 Review Coordinator, Office of Cultural Development, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247 or telephone (225) 342-8170*);
16. discharges of wastewater determined by this Office to present an environmental risk or potential risk of discharging pollutants other than is intended to be regulated by this permit;
17. proposed discharges directly into a waterbody designated as an outstanding natural resource water, as defined in LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3, except in accordance with LAC 33:IX.1119.C.4; and
18. discharges at operations classed as new sources or new dischargers, if the discharge will cause or contribute to the violation of water quality standards not addressed by the terms, conditions and schedules of this general permit (LAC 33:IX.2317.A.9).

At the discretion of this Office, coverage under this general permit **may not** be available to discharges:

- 1) from facilities not in compliance with a previously issued individual or general wastewater discharge permit;
- 2) from facilities which have previously been in violation of state water quality regulations;

- 3) from facilities which are located in an environmentally sensitive area;
- 4) into water bodies designated by the State pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act;
- 5) into waters that are likely to contain rare, threatened, or endangered species; or
- 6) from facilities which owe any outstanding fees or fines to the Department.

The Department may deny coverage under this permit and require submittal of an application for an individual LPDES permit based on a review of the NOI or other information. This Office reserves the right to issue such facilities an individual LPDES permit with more appropriate limitations and conditions.

The state administrative authority may require any discharger authorized by a general permit to apply for and obtain an individual LPDES permit. Any interested person may petition the state administrative authority to require an individual permit in accordance with LAC 33:IX.2515.B.3.a.i-vii. NOIs for all facilities requesting coverage under this general permit will be posted to LDEQ's public internet site. Likewise, all facilities authorized to discharge under this general permit will be posted on LDEQ's public internet site. Cases where an individual LPDES permit may be required include the following:

- i. the discharger or treatment works treating domestic sewage is not in compliance with the conditions of the general LPDES permit;
- ii. a change has occurred in the availability of demonstrated technology or practices for the control or abatement of pollutants applicable to the point source or treatment works treating domestic sewage;
- iii. effluent limitation guidelines are promulgated for point sources covered by the general LPDES permit;
- iv. a water quality management plan containing requirements applicable to such point sources is approved;
- v. circumstances have changed since the time of the request to be covered so that the discharger is no longer appropriately controlled under the general permit, or either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge is necessary;
- vi. standards for sewage sludge use or disposal have been promulgated for the sludge use and disposal practice covered by the general LPDES permit; or
- vii. the discharge(s) is a significant contributor of pollutants. In making this determination, the state administrative authority may consider the following factors:

- (a) the location of the discharge with respect to waters of the state;
- (b) the size of the discharge;
- (c) the quantity and nature of the pollutants discharged to waters of the state; and
- (d) other relevant factors (such as, but not limited to, critical flow and harmonic mean flow determinations, environmental considerations, site operational data, designated uses, water quality characteristics and other applicable water quality and regulatory requirements).

The facilities covered under this general permit would be assigned identical effluent limitations and requirements if covered under an individual LPDES discharge permit based on facility type and size. Given the large number of facilities in Louisiana that discharge exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater, LDEQ considers this general permit the most effective means by which to implement and enforce Louisiana's Water Quality Regulations efficiently, consistently and practically.

II. COVERED ACTIVITY (LAC 33:IX.3111.B.1,2)

This LPDES permit is being reissued and will replace the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) LPDES General Permit LAG750000 for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater. The permit was initially issued on July 20, 1990, as Permit WG-080000 under the Louisiana Water Discharge Permit System (LWDPS). It was reissued as LAG750000 effective July 1, 1998, under the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES). The LPDES permit was reissued on March 12, 2004.

The proposed permit shall cover facilities operating a source or conducting an activity that results in discharges of wastewater from the exterior washing of vehicles including cars, busses, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, pick-up trucks, fleet trucks, delivery trucks, 18-wheeled tractor trailer trucks, boats, aircraft (planes and helicopters), lawn-maintenance equipment, and construction equipment (e.g. bulldozers, backhoes, front loaders, cranes, fork lifts, etc.). Facilities eligible for coverage under this general permit include, but are not limited to, self service or full service gas stations, truck stops, and convenience stores; detail shops, coin-operated vehicle washes, brushless vehicle washes, and truck washes; airports and heliports; construction equipment rental companies; automobile rental facilities; and operators of portable vehicle pressure washing equipment.

Portable vehicle washing operations involved in the external washing of equipment, vehicles, boats, aircraft, and similar objects may also be covered by this general permit. Portable vehicle washing operations covered under this general permit may be covered on a statewide basis, thus the permit will regulate the discharge of wastewater from operations that move to various sites throughout the State. This includes contract washing operations that utilize portable equipment which is moved from location to location. Typical customers might include delivery service companies, utility companies,

trucking companies, heavy equipment operators, and other small businesses with fleets of cars, trucks, and equipment. This permit is intended to also cover the pressure washing of heavy equipment used by contractors in the construction business, timber sawing operations, and other activities where heavy equipment is pressure washed.

Each individual portable vehicle washing unit which discharges at the location at which the washing activity occurs shall obtain a permit and a copy of this permit shall be kept with each unit at all times. If wastewaters from portable units are collected and conveyed to a centralized location for treatment and discharge, site-specific coverage for that centralized operation will be required. Facilities serviced by a portable vehicle washing unit may be required to obtain a site-specific discharge permit, if portable equipment is used at the facility on such a regular basis that this Office determines that washing equipment and/or vehicles is a part of the facility's primary operation. Also, if this Office deems it in the best interest of the environment and water quality, a site-specific discharge permit may be required for any given facility.

Under the current version of the general permit that was issued on March 12, 2004, facilities that have an exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater discharge and sanitary wastewater discharges totaling less than 5,000 gallons per day are eligible for coverage under the general permit. Similar facilities will continue to be eligible for coverage under the reissued general permit.

Unless notified otherwise by the Secretary or his designee, owners/operators are authorized to discharge wastewater under the terms and conditions of the permit upon the receipt of a hand-delivered, correctly completed CW-G NOI by the Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division or 48 hours after the postmark date on the envelope that contains the correctly completed NOI. Submission of this NOI is an acknowledgement that the conditions of this general permit are applicable to the proposed discharge, and that the applicant agrees to comply with the conditions of the general permit. An NOI must be submitted for each portable vehicle washing unit and for each permanent site. This Office will send a copy of the general permit to the permitted facility along with a cover letter acknowledging that an NOI was received by the Water Permits Division. That letter will contain a permit authorization number that the facility will use on all records and reports associated with the facility. The letter will state that the facility has either site-specific permit coverage or statewide permit coverage under this general permit. In accordance with Permit *Other Conditions*, Section K.1 and Section O, the State Administrative Authority may, upon review of the NOI or at a later date, take measures to prohibit any discharge that is not protective of state water quality standards.

If determined appropriate by the agency, operators may be authorized under this permit after submittal of an alternate NOI/application form. These eligible applicants will be covered upon issuance of a permit authorization number and authorization letter by the Water Permits Division.

Discharges covered by this permit are limited to:

1. exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater;
2. treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD);
3. commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and
4. wastewater from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

III. OBTAINING COVERAGE

Dischargers desiring coverage under this general permit must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) using Form CW-G, or an equivalent, which may be obtained from the LDEQ web page at <http://www.deq.state.louisiana.gov/portal/> - INFO ABOUT Water - Permits - LPDES Program Page or by calling (225) 219-3294. Unless notified otherwise by the Secretary or his designee, owners/operators will become permittees authorized to discharge upon the receipt of a hand-delivered, correctly completed CW-G NOI by the office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division or 48 hours after the postmark date on the envelope that contains this correctly completed NOI. The NOI shall indicate whether site-specific permit coverage or statewide permit coverage is desired. If discharges are currently being conducted on a site-specific basis or a statewide basis and have not been permitted, an NOI shall be submitted immediately.

If circumstances change in the future at a permitted facility that result in the addition or elimination of permitted outfalls, or a change in the composition of effluent from a permitted outfall, the permittee is required to notify the Water Permits Division in writing of the elimination/change of any outfalls that were identified in the NOI or the addition of outfalls that were not identified in the NOI that was submitted for general permit coverage. Notification of the addition or elimination/change of permitted outfalls, or a change in the composition of effluent from a permitted outfall, must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a site diagram that clearly illustrates and identifies current outfall locations at the site.

The permittee is required to submit a permit transfer request to the Permit Support Division either prior to or no later than 45 days after the permitted facility changes ownership/operator. The request must be made on the official LDEQ form NOC-1 which is available on the LDEQ website at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ - PROGRAMS - Small Business/Small Community Assistance SB/SCAP/- Forms and Publications - Forms - Name/Operator/Owner Change Form. Any questions related to making a permit transfer should be directed to the LDEQ Application Verification Group at (225) 219-3292.

A printed hard copy of this permit may be obtained by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181, or a copy can be downloaded from the LDEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/. Go through the following links to find the

permit: INFO ABOUT Water – Permits – LPDES Program Page – LPDES General Permits – LAG750000.

Dischargers who are currently permitted under the LPDES version of this permit that expires on March 14, 2009, are not required to submit a new NOI. Provided the applicability requirements of the reissued permit are met, these permitted dischargers will be automatically covered under the reissued LPDES permit. Notification of coverage and a copy of the permit will be sent to each permittee after permit finalization. Permit conditions in the reissued permit are effective for these automatically-authorized permittees three (3) days after the postmark date of the notification of the facility's coverage under the reissued general permit.

During the reauthorization process, Water Permits Division staff members will evaluate each existing authorization under the general permit to assess the reasonable potential for the discharge of pollutants from the facility to cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards for any known impairments. The evaluation will include checking the basin subsegment numbers to ascertain that no currently permitted dischargers are discharging directly to a waterbody designated as an outstanding natural resource water. Any currently permitted facility that is identified as discharging directly to an outstanding natural resource water will be notified of its options to maintain permit coverage:

- (1) provide data to the Water Permits Division to show that the discharges from the facility are not causing degradation as defined in LAC 33:IX.1119.C.4;
- (2) reroute the discharges to prevent discharges from "directly" entering the waterbody; or
- (3) submit an individual permit application to determine if the facility can be permitted under an individual LPDES permit with more appropriate limitations or conditions.

Any permittee covered by an individual permit may request that the individual permit be canceled if the permitted source or activity is also accepted for coverage by this general permit. Permit coverage under this general permit will become effective upon the date of written notification from the Water Permits Division that the individual permit has been canceled.

Submission of a CW-G NOI is an acknowledgement that the conditions of the general permit are applicable to the proposed discharge, and that the applicant agrees to comply with the conditions of the general permit. For companies that wish to be covered on a statewide basis, an NOI must be submitted for each portable vehicle washing unit in operation. Operators at facilities where activities are conducted that are regulated by the general permit shall submit an NOI for site-specific permit coverage. This Office will send a copy of the general permit to the permitted facility along with a cover letter acknowledging that an NOI was received by the Water Permits Division. That letter will contain a permit authorization number that the facility will use on all records and reports associated with the facility. The letter will state that the facility has either site-specific

permit coverage or statewide permit coverage under the general permit. In accordance with Permit *Other Conditions*, Sections K.1 and O, the State Administrative Authority may, upon review of the NOI or at a later date, take measures to prohibit any discharge that is not protective of state water quality standards.

IV. DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION (LAC 33:IX.3111.B.2)

The permit may cover only discharges identified above in Item I. This permit **shall not** apply to facilities or portable vehicle washing operations:

1. sites producing and/or receiving wastewater from sources other than those described below in Section II COVERED ACTIVITY;
2. facilities which discharge substances that are not addressed by or would not be adequately regulated by the effluent limitations in this permit;
3. discharges that are mixed with other, non-covered discharge types unless those other discharges are in compliance with another LPDES permit;
4. washing of vehicles, boats, aircraft (planes and helicopters), or equipment determined by this Office to present an environmental risk or potential risk of discharging pollutants other than is intended to be regulated by this permit;
5. discharges which involve decontamination of equipment involved in remediation type activities;
6. discharges which have limits assigned to them in the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan or an approved Waste Load Allocation which are different from the limits contained in this permit;
7. discharges which involve oil field service vehicles, vehicles with tanks or cargo compartments for the hauling or dispensing of pesticides, waste materials or hazardous waste, or any material deemed by this Office to be a threat to the environment;
8. washing the inside of the storage compartment of garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste;
9. washing garbage trucks that haul industrial waste materials;
10. washing garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste if they are washed at any location other than a maintenance facility or a solid waste transfer station;
11. washing the outside of the storage compartment of garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste if there is a visible accumulation of free liquids or waste materials on the outside of the compartment;
12. internal tank truck washing or the external washing of tank trucks that have a visible accumulation of product on the outside of the tank;

13. steam cleaning or pressure washing engines, and/or industrial equipment with non-biodegradable soaps and/or detergents or with chemicals containing any of the 126 priority pollutants;
14. discharges which are likely to have unauthorized adverse effects upon threatened or endangered species, or on the critical habitat for these species as determined in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
15. discharges that will adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, unless they are in compliance with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and any necessary activities to avoid or minimize impacts have been coordinated with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (*for questions, the operator should contact the Section 106 Review Coordinator, Office of Cultural Development, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247 or telephone (225) 342-8170*);
16. discharges of wastewater determined by this Office to present an environmental risk or potential risk of discharging pollutants other than is intended to be regulated by this permit;
17. proposed discharges directly into a waterbody designated as an outstanding natural resource water, as defined in LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3, except in accordance with LAC 33:IX.1119.C.4; and
18. discharges at operations classed as new sources or new dischargers, if the discharge will cause or contribute to the violation of water quality standards not addressed by the terms, conditions and schedules of this general permit (LAC 33:IX.2317.A.9).

At the discretion of this Office, coverage under this general permit **may not** be available to discharges:

- 1) from facilities not in compliance with a previously issued individual or general wastewater discharge permit;
- 2) from facilities which have previously been in violation of state water quality regulations;
- 3) from facilities which are located in an environmentally sensitive area;
- 4) into water bodies designated by the State pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act;
- 5) into waters that are likely to contain rare, threatened, or endangered species; or
- 6) from facilities which owe any outstanding fees or fines to the Department.

V. DISCHARGE LOCATION (LAC 33:IX.6519.A.1)

Within the geographic boundaries of the State of Louisiana.

VI. RECEIVING STREAM/USES (LAC 33:IX.6519.A.2)

The general permit covers discharges to any waterbody within the geographic boundaries of the State of Louisiana, as defined in LAC 33:IX.1123 and LAC 33:IX.2313. However, each individual facility covered under the general permit will only be allowed to discharge to the specific waterbody identified in that facility's Notice of Intent that is submitted for permit coverage.

The possible designated uses of the receiving streams are:

- Primary Contact Recreation
- Secondary Contact Recreation
- Propagation of Fish and Wildlife
- Oyster Propagation
- Drinking Water Supply
- Agriculture
- Outstanding Natural Resource Waters
- Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use

VII. PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND/OR CONDITIONS

The specific effluent limitations and/or conditions will be found in the draft permit. Development of permit limits is detailed in the Draft Permit Rationale section below.

VIII. DRAFT PERMIT RATIONALE (LAC 33:IX.3111.B.4, LAC 33:IX.3305.B.1.d)

The following section sets forth the principal facts and the significant factual, legal, methodological, and policy questions considered in preparing the draft permit. The proposed effluent limitations and/or conditions are a continuation of those implemented in the Final LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater (LAG750000), issued effective March 15, 2004.

A. TECHNOLOGY-BASED VERSUS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Two types of technology-based effluent limitations must be included in this general permit. With regard to conventional pollutants, CWA Section 301(b)(1)(E) requires effluent limitations based on best conventional pollution control technology (BCT). With regard to nonconventional and toxic pollutants, CWA Section 301(b)(2)(A), (C), and (D) requires effluent limitations based on best available pollution control technology economically achievable (BAT). BAT and BCT effluent limitations may never be less stringent than corresponding effluent limitations based on best practicable control technology (BPT).

Frequently, EPA adopts nationally applicable guidelines identifying the BPT, BCT, and BAT standards to which specific industrial categories and subcategories are subject. Until such guidelines are published, however, CWA Section 402(a)(1) requires that appropriate BCT and BAT effluent limitations be determined using best professional judgment (BPJ). Since national guidelines establishing BPT, BCT, and BAT standards have not been promulgated for discharges of exterior vehicle wash wastewater, the appropriate BCT and BAT limitations have been established based on BPJ, as required by CWA Section 402(a)(1) and LAC 33:IX.3705.

Discharges of storm water and wastewaters from these facilities are noncontinuous in nature. The determination of flow from these outfalls is derived by estimate of the flow. Because of this, in this permit effluent limitations for discharges that are intermittent or noncontinuous in nature will be in terms of daily maximum concentrations, as allowed by LAC 33:IX.2709.F.1 and 40 CFR 122.45.

This general permit will also regulate facilities with sanitary wastewater discharges totaling less than 5,000 gallons per day maximum expected flow. Sanitary wastewaters are regulated in accordance with LAC 33:IX.711 or 709.B and by BPJ utilizing the sanitary general permits issued by this Office. Concentration limits are used in accordance with LAC 33:IX.2709.F.1.b which states that mass limitations are not necessary when applicable standards and limitations are expressed in other units of measurement. LAC 33:IX.709.B references LAC 33:IX.711 which expresses BOD₅ and TSS in terms of concentration.

B. TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS
(LAC 33:IX.3111.B.4)

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

Regulations promulgated at LAC 33:IX.2707.A/40 CFR Part 122.44(a) require technology-based effluent limitations to be placed in LPDES permits based on effluent limitations guidelines where applicable, on BPJ (best professional judgment) in the absence of guidelines, or on a combination of the two.

Discharges under this general permit will be releases related to the external washing of vehicles and certain types of equipment. The permit is intended to cover only

- a. exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater;
- b. treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD);
- c. commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and
- d. wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

The draft permit limits and conditions are equivalent to those in the current LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater (LAG750000), issued effective July 1, 1998, and reissued March 12, 2004. However, the proposed permit differs in several ways from the previous version of the permit that expires on March 14, 2009.

- (1) Updated the following *Other Conditions* to match current requirements in recently issued LPDES permits:
 - (a) Included the condition that sanitary wastewater that cannot be sampled prior to commingling with vehicle wash wastewater may be reported as a commingled outfall and sampled in accordance with RLP 4 Outfall 004;
 - (b) Expanded the section on 24-hour Oral Reporting requirements;
 - (c) Added Section V - Flow Requirements.
- (2) Changed "Permits Division" to "Water Permits Division";
- (3) Restricted permit coverage for discharges of treated sanitary wastewater to facilities discharging less than 5,000 GPD. The current permit that expires March 11, 2009, allowed discharges of up to 25,000 GPD of sanitary wastewater;
- (4) Removed the exclusion from permit coverage for garbage trucks that haul municipal/household solid waste provided washing of the exterior of the truck occurs at either a maintenance facility or at a solid waste transfer station. Permit coverage for washing these specific types of garbage trucks at any other location, such as at a solid waste landfill, is not available under this general permit. Permit coverage is not available for washing the interior of the storage compartment of any trucks that haul either municipal/household or industrial solid waste materials.
- (5) Updated the *Monitoring and Recordkeeping* requirements for the effluent characteristic, *Soaps and Detergents*;
- (6) Updated the *Monitoring and Recordkeeping* requirements for the effluent characteristic, *Visible Sheen*;
- (7) Clarified that dischargers permitted under the version of the permit that expires on March 14, 2009, will be automatically covered under the reissued permit provided applicability conditions of the reissued permit are met;
- (8) Although NOIs submitted for coverage under a general permit have always undergone an extensive review to ascertain that the discharge is eligible for coverage under a general permit, the reissuance permit now includes specific language to describe instances where applicants for coverage under the permit may be required to apply for individual LPDES permit coverage. Cases where an individual LPDES permit may be required are described in *Other Conditions*, Sections K.1 and O;

- (9) Updated language in the permit to instruct permittees to use test methods prescribed in the latest approved 40 CFR 136 in order to ensure that they are using the most current and sensitive parameter-specific test methods; and
- (10) Excluded proposed discharges directly into a waterbody designated as an outstanding natural resource water, as defined in LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3, from coverage under the general permit. Such discharges may pursue coverage under an individual LPDES permit.

2. LIMITED PARAMETERS

a. **pH** - Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) based on Best Professional Judgment; LAC 33:IX.5905.C. Effluent limitation of 6.0 minimum to 9.0 maximum standard units will be included in this permit. This effluent limitation was included in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater and previously issued individual LPDES permits. This effluent limitation can also be found in the EPA Region VI Storm Water Guidance Document and in previous individual and general permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources).

b. **BOD₅** - Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) based on Best Professional Judgment; LAC 33:IX.711 and LAC 33:IX.5905.A. This effluent limitation was included as daily maximum and weekly average limitations in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater; the LPDES Class II General Sanitary Permits; previous individual and general permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources).

c. **Oil & Grease** - Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology based on Best Professional Judgment; the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater; previously issued individual LPDES permits. The traditional daily maximum and weekly average BCT effluent limitation of 15 mg/l Oil & Grease is proposed based on BPJ for facilities that include food service waste in their discharge. Under LAC 33:IX.1113.B.6, free or floating oil or grease shall not be allowed in quantities large enough to interfere with the designated uses, nor shall emulsified oils be present in quantities large enough to interfere with the designated uses of a water body that has been designated as waters of the state.

d. **Total Suspended Solids (TSS)** - Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology based on Best Professional Judgment (BPJ); TSS limitation of 45 mg/L Weekly Average (for sewage treatment plants) based on LAC 33:IX.711 and LAC 33:IX.5905.B; TSS limitation of 135 mg/L Weekly Average (facilities that use oxidation ponds for treatment) in accordance with LAC 33:IX.5911; the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater; LPDES Class I and II General Sanitary Permits; LPDES General Permit for Discharges from Cement,

Concrete, and Asphalt Facilities; previous individual and general permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources).

e. **COD – Best Available Technology Economically Achievable based on Best Professional Judgement;** the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater; previously issued individual LPDES permits. Exterior Vehicle and Equipment Wash Wastewater; Commingled Discharges of Treated Vehicle Wash and Sanitary Wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and Wastewaters from Portable Vehicle Washing Operations which are Discharged at a Centralized Location will be assigned a Daily Maximum COD limitation of 300 mg/L to evaluate the oxygen demand of the soaps and/or detergents. If the washrack wastewater is combined with storm water, the COD limitation shall be 125 mg/L Daily Maximum. This effluent limitation was included as the daily maximum limitation in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater. This effluent limitation has also been used in the LPDES General Permit for Cement, Concrete and Asphalt Facilities and in previous individual and in other general permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources).

f. **Fecal coliform –** The permit establishes the Fecal coliform limitations to protect water quality commensurate with the most stringent designated use as described at LAC 33:IX.1113.C.5. The most stringent bacteria standards are established for water bodies that have been designated as Primary Contact Recreation water bodies. Discharges of treated sanitary wastewater are intermittent, therefore, the daily maximum limit of 400/100 mL is proposed as the fecal coliform limit in the permit. 200/100 mL fecal coliform is established as the monthly average limit for discharges of treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD). This limit is being proposed through Best Professional Judgment in order to ensure that the water quality standards are not exceeded in water bodies that are designated for Primary Contact Recreation. Existing facilities have demonstrated an ability to comply with this limitation using present available technology.

The BCT effluent limitations for fecal coliform which will be assigned to facilities located in areas which have oyster propagation as a designated use is a monthly average limitation of 14 fecal colonies/100 mL and a daily maximum limitation of 43 fecal colonies/100 mL, in accordance with LAC 33:IX.1113.C.5.d. This effluent limitation was included as the weekly average limitation in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater; and the LPDES General Permit for Discharges from Cement, Concrete and Asphalt Facilities. This is also the fecal coliform effluent limitation for sanitary wastewater in the LPDES Class I and II Sanitary General Permits and individual LPDES permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources).

g. **Soaps and/or Detergents -** This condition is being required for discharges of exterior vehicle wash wastewater based on best professional judgment. This condition was included in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater. This condition is also included in the

effluent limitations used to monitor similar types of discharges covered by the LPDES General Permit for Discharges from Cement, Concrete and Asphalt Facilities and in previous individual permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources). Upon initial use of a soap and/or detergent the facility is required to have a copy of the MSDS for each product available and retain it on-site with the facility's DMR records. The facility is required to keep quarterly inventory records for each material used at the site and to retain the records for three (3) years. No DMR reporting shall be required.

h. **Visible Sheen** - This condition is being required for discharges of exterior vehicle wash wastewater based on best professional judgment. This condition was included in the previously issued LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater and the LPDES General Permit for Discharges from Cement, Concrete and Asphalt Facilities. This condition is also included in the effluent limitations used to monitor similar types of discharges covered by previous individual permits issued by the Office of Environmental Services (formerly the Office of Water Resources). The permittee is required to conduct daily visual observations to determine if a visible sheen is present at the outfall, and to keep a manual log recording the results of the daily inspections. If a visible sheen is present, a letter of noncompliance shall be submitted in accordance with *Standard Conditions*, Section D.6.3. No DMR reporting shall be required.

C. MONITORING FREQUENCIES FOR LIMITED PARAMETERS

Regulations require permits to establish monitoring requirements to yield data representative of the monitored activity (LAC 33:IX.2715/40 CFR 122.48(b)) and to assure compliance with permit limitations (LAC 33:IX.2707.I.1/40 CFR 122.44(I)(1)).

The monitoring frequencies assigned to each parameter in the draft permit are equivalent to the monitoring frequencies used in existing LPDES general permits and in individual LPDES permits issued by this Office.

Flow: 1/3 months for exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater; 1/6 months for sanitary wastewater discharges (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

pH: 1/3 months for exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater; 1/6 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

BOD₅: 1/6 months for sanitary wastewater discharges (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD).

Oil and Grease: 1/3 months for exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater; 1/6 months for sanitary wastewater discharges (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

TSS: 1/3 months for exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater; 1/6 months for sanitary wastewater discharges (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

COD: 1/3 months for exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater; 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

Fecal Coliform: 1/6 months for sanitary wastewater discharges (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for treated sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); 1/3 months for commingled discharges of treated vehicle wash and sanitary wastewater (less than 5,000 GPD); and 1/month for wastewaters from portable vehicle washing operations which are discharged at a centralized location.

Soaps and Detergents: The facility is required to keep quarterly inventory records for each material used at the site and to retain the records for three (3) years. No DMR reporting shall be required.

Visible Sheen: The permittee is required to conduct daily visual observations to determine if a visible sheen is present at the outfall, and to keep a manual log recording the results of the daily inspections. If a visible sheen is present, a letter of noncompliance shall be submitted in accordance with *Standard Conditions*, Section D.6.3. No DMR reporting shall be required.

IX. PUBLIC NOTICES (LAC 33:IX.3111.B.6)

The public notice describes the procedures for the formulation of final determinations.

Upon publication of the public notice, a public comment period shall begin on the date of publication and last for at least 30 days thereafter. During this period, any interested person may submit written comments on the permit. Any interested person may also

submit a written request for clarification of issues related to the content of the general permit or the permit issuance process. Interested persons may also submit written requests for notification of the final permit decision or to request a public hearing to clarify issues involved in the permit decision. A request for a public hearing shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. The public notice specifies that written comments and/or written requests shall be submitted to the LDEQ Public Participation Group and that written comments and/or written requests must be received by the Department by a specific deadline.

Public notice will be published in:

THE ADVOCATE of Baton Rouge
 LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN PRESS
 THE ADVERTISER of Lafayette
 THE TIMES of Shreveport
 THE TIMES PICAYUNE of New Orleans
 THE NEWS-STAR of Monroe
 THE TOWN TALK of Alexandria
 THE COURIER of Houma

LDEQ Permits Public Notice Mailing List

LDEQ Permits Public Web Page at
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/news/pubnotice/default.asp>.

The draft permit, NOI, and fact sheet will be available for review at the LDEQ Public Records Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

The Water Permits Division will send notification of the final permit decision to each person who has submitted written comments or a written request for notification of the final decision.

X. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The proposed limitations on these discharges are sufficiently stringent to assure state water quality standards for both aquatic life and human health protection will be met for any receiving stream throughout the state. The effluent limitations established in this permit mirror those found in the current permit that became effective on March 15, 2004.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a letter of no objection for the issuance of the current LPDES LAG750000 permit that expires March 11, 2009. The effluent limitations in this reissuance permit ensure protection of aquatic life and maintenance of the receiving water as an aquatic habitat.

In 2004, the USFWS concurred with our general determination and with our finding that adoption of the NOI procedures are appropriate to assure that automatic authorization to

discharge under this general permit is unlikely to adversely affect the conservation of threatened and endangered species in receiving water bodies throughout the state. Concurrence from the USFWS that the draft general permit adequately addresses impacts that discharges may have on endangered and/or threatened species will be obtained prior to permit issuance.

XI. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ACT

An operator must be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act to be eligible for coverage under this general permit. Discharges may be authorized under this permit only if:

- (1) storm water discharges, allowable non-storm water discharges, and discharge-related activities do not affect a property that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, unless they are in compliance with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and any necessary activities to avoid or minimize impacts have been coordinated with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); and
- (2) If applicable, the operator has obtained and is in compliance with a written agreement with the SHPO that outlines all measures you will undertake to mitigate or prevent adverse effects to the historic property.

The state finds that adoption of the reissued permit is unlikely to have unauthorized adverse effects upon properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places provided that permittees meet the above applicability requirements contained in the permit. The draft permit and fact sheet have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for their comments and/or concurrence with the state's determination.

XII. FEES

At the time of proposed issuance, the annual maintenance and surveillance fee for site-specific coverage under this permit for individual sites will be \$264.00. A twenty percent surcharge (up to a maximum surcharge of \$150.00) will be added to the annual fee for individual sites located in the following basins: Atchafalaya River, Barataria, Lake Pontchartrain, Mississippi River, and Terrebonne. Monies collected through this surcharge are deposited in the Oyster Sanitation Fund, which is used to support molluscan sanitation efforts. The annual maintenance and surveillance fee for statewide permit coverage will be \$317.00. The agency may adjust fee amounts at a later date by promulgation of same, in the Louisiana Administrative Code.

XIII. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

The permittee is to be in compliance with the permit limitations and conditions as of the date of coverage under the general permit.

XIV. STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Pursuant to the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (LA. R.S. 30:2001, et seq.) and in conformity with the Clean Water Act the state of Louisiana has established "... water quality standards to prohibit, control, or abate water pollution."

Each NOI that is received by LDEQ to request general permit coverage undergoes an evaluation to ascertain that the subject facility or project can be adequately regulated by coverage under the general permit. The evaluation is conducted prior to issuing a general permit authorization number to the facility or project, and to confirm that the facility or project is eligible for coverage under the general permit. The evaluation includes, but is not limited to, assessing the reasonable potential for the discharge of pollutants from the facility to cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards. The scientist who evaluates the NOI may request additional information from the applicant, and, if necessary the facility may be visited to clarify information and to confirm that the facility is eligible for general permit coverage. The scientist determines which LDEQ basin subsegment the facility discharges will enter, the route of the facility's discharges, the designated uses of the receiving water body, and the potential to impact threatened or endangered species that may exist in the basin subsegment, in order to confirm that the facility meets the eligibility requirements of the general permit prior to issuing a permit authorization number to the facility.

The proposed permit would require as an eligibility condition that covered discharges not cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to a violation of a state water quality standard. If a discharge is known to be doing such the operator must seek coverage under an alternative permit. Where a discharger is already operating under the permit and is later determined to cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to the violation of a state water quality standard, the permitting authority will notify the operator of such violation(s) and the permittee shall take all necessary actions to ensure future discharges do not cause or contribute to the violation of a water quality standard and document these actions in the pollution prevention plan. If violations remain or recur then coverage under the permit will be terminated. Compliance with this requirement does not preclude any enforcement activity as provided by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq.) for the underlying violation. A permit reopener clause is included in the permit.

Should any TMDLs and wasteload allocations which address these discharges be developed, implementation within the required time frames for application of these requirements will be completed. After a complete evaluation is conducted to assess the reasonable potential for the discharge of pollutants from the facility to cause or contribute to further violation of water quality standards for any known impairments, coverage under the general permit may be denied and regulation under an individual permit required if more stringent limitations than the limitations contained in the general permit are required for protection of the impaired receiving stream.

Where an approved or established TMDL has not specified a wasteload allocation (WLA) applicable to discharges covered by this general permit, but has not specifically excluded these discharges, it will generally be assumed that discharges from facilities permitted under this general permit are consistent with approved TMDLs.

Each NOI received to request authorization under this LPDES general permit will be evaluated by the Agency to assure any WLAs are met, and that in-stream standards will not be violated by the proposed discharges. Coverage under the general permit may be denied and regulation under an individual permit required if more stringent limitations than the limitations contained in the general permit are required for protection of a receiving stream.

In order to meet the assumptions and requirements of established or approved TMDLs, coverage under this general permit may be denied and regulation under an individual permit required. Facilities that discharge to a specific 303(d) listed impaired water body will not be eligible for coverage under this general permit if the TMDL for that particular water body specifically precludes discharges covered by this general permit, or where the discharge can be expected to cause or contribute to the water quality impairment addressed by the TMDL.

The general criteria and numerical criteria which make up the stream standards are provided in the "Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards", (LAC 33:IX.11, amended as of September 1989, March 1991, April 1994, August 1994, July 1995, November 1996, October 1998, December 1999, March 2001, March 2002, August 2002, September 2003, July 2004, November 2004, April 2005, and May 2006).

For the purposes of assuring that state water quality standards are achieved, the following language is being included in the general permit (*Other Conditions*, Section K.1) along with a reopener clause (*Other Conditions*, Section O).

LAC 33:IX.1113 describes numerical and general criteria that apply to all discharges into waters of the State. Criteria are elements of the water quality regulations which set limitations on the permissible amounts of a substance or other characteristics of state waters. The General Criteria, as described in the

Louisiana Administrative Code, limit discharges to maintain aesthetics, color, turbidity, the biologic and aquatic community integrity, and many other elements in the receiving waterbody. Any noncompliance with the General or Numerical Criteria is not authorized under this permit.

To comply with the requirements of LAC 33:IX.2317.A.9, this permit does not authorize any discharge from a facility which is classed as a new source or new discharge, as defined at LAC 33:IX.2313, if the discharge will cause or contribute to the violation of water quality standards. Discharges from facilities permitted under LPDES general permits typically consist of low volume flows, and discharges that are intermittent in nature. This general permit is applicable to very specific types of facilities and allows very limited types of discharges that specifically occur at facilities that are eligible for coverage under this permit. The permit effluent limitations and other conditions are determined to be sufficient to assure protection to state waters. New source discharges or new discharges of wastewater from a facility whose discharges are in compliance with the general permit requirements should not adversely impact water quality of 303(d) listed impaired water bodies nor should they cause or contribute to the violation of state water quality standards in receiving water bodies throughout the state, including 303(d) impaired water bodies. Allowing automatic coverage under this general permit will not negatively impact the water quality of receiving streams because permitted facilities are required to be in compliance with the general permit requirements immediately upon coverage by the permit. In accordance with *Other Conditions*, Section K.1 and O measures can be taken by the permitting authority to prohibit any discharge that is not protective of state water quality standards.

Discharges of exterior vehicle and equipment wash wastewater and sanitary wastewater from eligible facilities are relatively small flows and are generally non-continuous in nature. The experience which this Office has in permitting these discharges, and the absence of any identified adverse effects to the receiving water bodies for discharges under previously-issued permits, support the adequacy of continuing the previously applied conditions and effluent limitations to assure that water quality standards will be met, as supported in the following discussion and above in Item VII of this Fact Sheet.

The permit duplicates the parameters, limitations, and requirements found in the LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater issued March 12, 2004, except for the following minor changes:

- (1) Removed the stipulation that sanitary wastewater can not be reported as a combined outfall;
- (2) Restricted permit coverage for discharges of treated sanitary wastewater to facilities discharging less than 5,000 GPD rather than 25,000 GPD as allowed

- in the current permit that expires March 11, 2009;
- (3) Changed the discharge limitation for Fecal coliform from 400 colonies/100 ml weekly average to 400 colonies/100 ml daily maximum;
 - (4) Requires that a manual log be kept at the facility with daily entries of the results of visual inspections. If a visual sheen is present, a letter of noncompliance shall be submitted in accordance *Standard Conditions*, Section D.6.e. Entries in the log must be maintained at the facility for three years from the date of the inspection. Visible Sheen will not be reported to LDEQ on a DMR form;
 - (5) Requires that inventory records be kept of the quantity and type of soaps/detergents used, and a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each material used be kept on-site for a period of three years. No DMR reporting is required;
 - (6) Removed the prohibition against coverage of washing of municipal household garbage trucks under certain conditions; and
 - (7) Specified that proposed discharges directly to a waterbody designated as an outstanding natural resource water, as defined in LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3, except in accordance with LAC 33:IX.1119.C.4 are not eligible for coverage under the general permit.

EPA Region VI concurred that the effluent limitations established in the 2004 permit ensured attainment of water quality standards. The state does not believe any water quality issues have developed that were not considered when the 2004 permit was prepared; therefore, that determination is still valid and these limitations are proposed for the reissued permit.

The parameters and limits contained in the draft permit will offer adequate protection to any streams listed on the LDEQ Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies. DO impacted streams will be adequately protected by the BOD₅ and COD limitations included in the permit.

XV. FINAL DETERMINATION

The availability of an LPDES General Permit for Discharges of Exterior Vehicle Wash Wastewater streamlines the permit process for certain sources that generate common types of wastewaters that can be effectively treated by common types of treatment systems, to meet the effluent limitations contained in the permit. LDEQ streamlines the permit process for low potential dischargers by utilizing a general permit to regulate discharges from facilities or operations that discharge exterior vehicle wash wastewater. Utilization of a general permit to permit these facilities and discharges allows the Department to devote more resources to issuing individual LPDES permits to industrial facilities with discharges that require more regulatory oversight while ensuring that discharges permitted under this general permit are protective of state water quality standards in receiving streams throughout the state.

This agency has determined that discharges covered by this authorization can be adequately treated by common types of treatment systems to meet the effluent limitations contained in the general permit. The resulting discharges that are in compliance with the permit limitations should not pose any reasonable potential to cause or contribute to any existing water quality or 303(d) listed impairment.

The effluent limitations and monitoring requirements of this permit are adequate to protect for the designated uses and water quality standards of Louisiana.

On the basis of preliminary staff review, the Department of Environmental Quality has made a tentative determination to reissue the permit for the discharges described in this Fact Sheet.